

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for synthesis of hydrogen cyanide, comprising:

reacting ~~membrane~~ methane or methane-containing natural gas, ammonia and oxygen-enriched air or oxygen in the presence of a catalyst comprising platinum or a platinum alloy;

wherein oxygen and nitrogen are present in a molar ratio which satisfies the relationship

$$\frac{[\text{O}_2]}{[\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2]} = 0.25 \text{ to } 1.0;$$

wherein methane and ammonia are present in a molar ratio of

$$\frac{[\text{CH}_4]}{[\text{NH}_3]} = 0.95 \text{ to } 1.05; \text{ and}$$

wherein a molar ratio of ammonia to the sum of oxygen and nitrogen obeys the following relationship:

$$Y = m \cdot X - a,$$

wherein

$$Y = \frac{[\text{NH}_3]}{[\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2]}$$

$$X = \frac{[\text{O}_2]}{[\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2]}$$

$m = 1.25 \text{ to } 1.40$; and

$a = 0.05 \text{ to } 0.14$.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said molar ratio of oxygen and nitrogen is

$$\frac{[\text{O}_2]}{[\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2]} = 0.25 \text{ to } 0.40.$$

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein $m = 1.25$ to 1.33 and $a = 0.07$ to 0.11 .

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the starting-gas mixture is preheated to at most 150°C .

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein a volume flow for ammonia and methane or the methane-containing natural gas is calculated and controlled as a function of a molar ratio $X = \text{O}_2/(\text{N}_2 + \text{O}_2)$ using a process control system.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the methane-containing natural gas contains at least 88 vol.% of methane.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said process is performed in a conventional Andrussov-reactor.

Claim 9-14 (Canceled).

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by changing reference to Fig. 1 or Figure 1 to the Figure. In addition, since the specification contains two different tables each identified as Table 1, the second table has been changed to Table 2.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the claim objections.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 remain pending in the application.